

## Little Lake Butte des Morts Cleanup Moves Forward

By Greg Swanson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Sediment dredging and on-shore treatment are in full operation as the PCB cleanup in Little Lake Butte des Morts continues.

As of mid-July, two dredges were removing PCB-contaminated sediment at a targeted rate of about 1,000 cubic yards a day. The dredges are operating around the clock, five days a week on the lake just north of Neenah's Arrowhead Park in what is known as Deposit A. The work in Deposit A, which is scheduled to take until late September, will remove approximately 85,000 cubic yards of sediment. Of that amount, about 1,500 cubic yards have PCB contamination levels above 50 parts per million, which requires that they be processed separately and disposed of out of state. Both of these figures include an additional amount of sediment that will be "overdredged" below and around the area required to assure that the sediment with contamination above the "action level" of 1 part per million is removed.

The dredges will move north along the western shore of the lake in late September to an area just south of Fritse Park in the town of Menasha. Dredging work in this area will continue until early November. Beginning in October, excavation work will start on the east side of the lake to the north of the trestle trail and west of the Menasha locks. The excavation of uncontaminated material needs to be done first so the dredges can reach contaminated sediment in that area.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LITTLE LAKE CLEANUP TEAM WEB SITE

*This is one of two dredges operating around the clock, five days a week on Little Lake Butte des Morts just north of Arrowhead Park.*

Actual dredging is scheduled to begin in early November and be completed by Thanksgiving. The dredging work in these two areas will bring the total removal for 2005 to over 150,000 cubic yards, including the overdredge amount.

The on-shore treatment site has been expanded this year to accommodate more geotextile dewatering tubes needed to handle the increased volume of sediment. Starting around mid-August, the dewatered sediment will be trucked from the treatment area to the Hickory Meadows Landfill, near Chilton. The water that is separated from the sediment is treated (cleansed) to remove remaining contaminants at the

See Little Lake Butte des Morts, Page 5

## Trustee Council Participates In Nature Conservancy Celebration

By Colette Charbonneau, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council was represented at a recent celebration hosted by The Nature Conservancy near Bailey's Harbor, Door County, Wis.

The July 14 event celebrated the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, a state granting program developed to protect sensitive lands, provide outdoor recreation opportunities and restore wildlife habitat (homes).

Governor Jim Doyle participated in the festivities by planting a native white pine tree in honor of the late U.S. senator and former Wisconsin governor, Gaylord Nelson. The tree was planted on property purchased with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds. It is also part of TNC's reforestation restoration project funded by the trustee council with Fox River/Green Bay natural resource damage assessment and restoration settlement money. The Gaylord Nelson memorial tree is joined by over 80,000 others on the Door Peninsula planted as part of the restoration project.

"Without these unique and innovative conservation partnerships, we stand to lose forever the special places on the peninsula that are home to a multitude of endangered and threatened species that protect the



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

*Colette Charbonneau, third from right, represented the Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council at TNC's July 14 tree planting ceremony to celebrate the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund.*

area's water quality," said Scott Thompson, TNC director of conservation in Eastern Wisconsin.

For further information on how local organizations can apply for NRDA settlement funds, contact Trustee Council Coordinator Colette Charbonneau, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at [Colette\\_Charbonneau@fws.gov](mailto:Colette_Charbonneau@fws.gov) or at (920) 866-1726.



## Markers Keep Lake Boaters Safe

By Greg Swanson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Boating safety on Little Lake Butte des Morts during dredging operations is very important. Boaters need to stay clear of the dredges and pumping barges and the floating pipeline that carries the sediment to shore. The location of actual dredging operations will be marked with signs and buoys. Orange, round buoys called pipeline delineators mark the length of the pipeline at 150-foot intervals.

Lighted white buoys with distinctive labels are located on both sides of the pipeline every 500 feet. Four lighted green and red channel buoys will mark key areas where the pipeline has been submerged to allow boaters safe passage. Boaters may only cross the pipeline between the channel markers. Safety information is also posted at boat landings around the lake and at bait shops, marinas and other businesses serving the boating and angling community.

Current information on the location of the dredges and pipeline is posted on the Little Lake Cleanup Team Web site, [www.littlelakecleanup.com](http://www.littlelakecleanup.com), or may be obtained by calling the Little Lake Cleanup Team at (920) 912-5065.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LITTLE LAKE CLEANUP TEAM WEB SITE

*Safety signs have been posted at boat launches and marinas around Little Lake Butte des Morts.*



## Out and About...

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership is made up of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin and Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin. These partners, as well as other supporting agencies, regularly provide speakers to organizations in the Fox Valley area. The following people recently made presentations:

### July

- ◆ *Colette Charbonneau*, FWS: Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust landowners meeting, New Franken, Wis.; general information on natural resource damage assessment and restoration.

### August

- ◆ *Jim Hahnenberg*, EPA: Sediment Remediation Course: Technical Considerations for Evaluating and Implementing Dredging and Capping Remedies, Boston, Mass.; presentations on dredging and capping.
- ◆ *Colette Charbonneau*, FWS: U.S. Department of Justice attorneys meeting, Neenah; field tour of Little Lake Butte des Morts and restoration projects.

## Correction

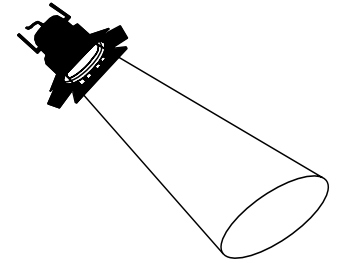
The telephone numbers for Greg Swanson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Jim Morrison, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, were printed incorrectly on Page 2 of the May/June edition of the *Fox River Current*. The correct number for Swanson is (608) 264-6024. Morrison's correct number is (608) 267-3227.

*The Fox River Current is featuring promising natural resource damage assessment projects in and near the Lower Fox River.*

# Spotlight On:

## Raising Walleye for Door County Waters

By Colette Charbonneau, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Walleye, a popular native sport fish in Green Bay, have been part of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources stocking program for more than two decades. The stocking program was developed to reestablish self-sustaining populations of native walleye in southern Green Bay and the nearshore Green Bay waters of Door County.

“Unfortunately natural reproduction is low in the Sturgeon Bay and Little Sturgeon Bay areas due to the loss of prime spawning habitat,” explained Michael Toneys, DNR regional team supervisor. “The remaining habitat is inadequate to maintain populations of this important fish. It is a necessity that we annually stock this top predator into the bay for the health of the fish community as well as for sport-fishers to fish.”

The lack of capacity in the state hatchery system for raising enough walleye fingerlings (young walleye the size of your finger) to meet statewide stocking demands is a problem. Frequently there are few or no walleye available for stocking in Door County waters. The Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council approved a restoration project to construct a walleye-rearing pond to raise walleye fry (a baby walleye) to fingerling size for stocking into Sturgeon and Little Sturgeon bays. A three-fourth acre pond was constructed at the Dana Farm Recreation Area in Kewaunee County. The pond was



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL TONEYS, DNR

*Hatching jars containing walleye eggs are stored in a building next to the new rearing pond. After the eggs hatch, the fish will be raised in the pond and eventually used to stock the Green Bay waters of Door County.*

built by the DNR Northeast Region Operations Crew. A well was constructed by a private well driller to provide water to fill the pond in the spring. A power source was also needed and was installed by the local utility to provide power for the well pump and for on-site hatching of walleye fry to be reared to the appropriate stocking size in the new pond. DNR provided matching funds to complete this important restoration project.

The construction of the pond, well and utilities was completed in June. “Starting in 2006, the pond will be used to rear approximately 50,000 walleye

See **Spotlight**, Page 5



**Spotlight** *from Page 4*

fingerlings that will be stocked into the Green Bay waters of Door County to provide fish for restoring walleye populations and for continued sport fishing opportunities for the public,” stated Toney.

The natural resource trustees are comprised of DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Michigan Attorney General, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For further information on NRDA projects, contact Trustee Council Coordinator Colette Charbonneau, FWS, at [Colette\\_Charbonneau@fws.gov](mailto:Colette_Charbonneau@fws.gov) or at (920) 866-1726.

**Little Lake Butte des Morts** *from Page 1*

on-shore water treatment plant and then returned to the lake.

“DNR and EPA have been pleased with the startup of the 2005 operation,” said Implementation Coordinator Greg Hill, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. “The expansion of the on-shore facilities and the addition of a second dredge have gone smoothly.”

Representatives from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Little Lake Cleanup Team were on hand to answer questions and discuss the cleanup operations at an informational meeting in Neenah on Tuesday, July 5. Members of the cleanup team also spent time prior to the meeting personally visiting area residents to give them information.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL TONEYS, DNR

*Early construction of a three-fourth acre pond to be used for raising walleye.*

# Profile On ... Mick Hans

## EPA Media Liaison Helps Bring Fox News to the Forefront

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

When an article or photo spread on the Lower Fox River appears in a local newspaper, trade journal or technical magazine, or when a report is given on the 10 p.m. news, chances are that Public Information Officer Mick Hans had something to do with it.

Hans, 43, has been the media's "go-to guy" for Superfund-related topics since joining the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's public affairs office in 1996. Working from the agency's Chicago office while dealing with many Wisconsin issues, Hans feels right at home. Born in Madison, Wis., he regularly fields phone calls and helps arrange photo opportunities for reporters up and down the Fox Valley.

"I'm probably one of the less visible government folks involved in the Lower Fox River, unless you are a reporter," he explained. "My job is to help reporters get their stories and to help our technical staff talk to them in plain English."

In his efforts to assist reporters, Hans admits he can sometimes be the bearer of bad news for his EPA coworkers. "If a reporter calls me with a pesticide question at 4 p.m. on a Friday, that means I have to scramble to find the right scientist, explain that he or she will have to miss their regular train home that day, and then return the phone call," he said. "One of the Superfund supervisors says he always gets nervous when he sees me near his office. I'm always reminding people not to shoot the messenger."

Hans, who has a bachelor's degree in communications/radio-TV from the University of Wisconsin—Madison and a master's in geography and environmental studies from Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago, handles Superfund media inquiries for six states and hundreds of sites. The



*Mick Hans*

Lower Fox River, however, is one of the projects that really keeps him hopping.

"The Fox is an interesting site, media-coverage wise," he continued. "With most cleanup projects, there are two or three local reporters who check in periodically and it's pretty straight-forward. With the Fox, there's a blend of very local concerns from Green Bay to Appleton, "big picture" coverage from Milwaukee, Madison and Minneapolis, and then on top of that, national and trade press interest because of the parallels to the Hudson River cleanup in

*See Profile, Page 7*



**Profile from Page 6**

upstate New York. All of these reporters have different needs, different deadlines and different levels of understanding of the project.”

Having worked on the Lower Fox River effort for nearly seven years, Hans said he has gotten to know a lot of people who he would not normally come into contact with. “Ordinarily, my job is reactive so I don’t get to know the all health agency people or the lawyers at our partner agencies,” he stated. “With the Fox site, we are all pretty familiar with one another. It brings a deeper understanding of the issues and the challenges involved.”

In his spare time, Hans is active in river matters closer to his northwest side Chicago home as a member of the Friends of the Chicago River planning committee. “That means developers who have plans involving the river make presentations to us and then we weigh in and provide comments to the city’s planning department.”

He and his wife Ellen enjoy kayaking the Chicago River. Last summer, they paddled in the Chicago Flatwater Classic—a 7-mile recreational race that started near Wrigley Field, went under bridges in downtown Chicago and ended in the Chinatown neighborhood. “It’s a real urban paddle,” he concluded. “You see everything from herons and beavers to factories and skyscrapers.”



**Check out these Web sites:**

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/lowerfox/>

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/foxriver/>

<http://contaminants.fws.gov/Issues/Restoration.cfm>

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/nrda/index.html>

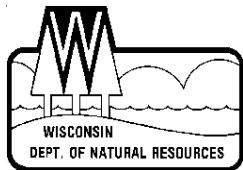
## Information Available at Local Libraries

The Intergovernmental Partners invite the public to review technical reports, fact sheets and other documents related to the Lower Fox River cleanup at information repositories set up in the reference sections of the local libraries listed below. Information repositories at the public libraries in De Pere, Kaukauna, Little Chute, Neenah and Wrightstown have been discontinued. However, binders containing fact sheets are being maintained at these locations as well as at the following repositories:

- **Appleton Public Library**, 225 N. Oneida St., Appleton, Wis.; (920) 832-6170
- **Brown County Library**, 515 Pine St., Green Bay, Wis.; (920) 448-4381, Ext. 394
- **Door County Library**, 107 S. Fourth Ave., Sturgeon Bay, Wis.; (920) 743-6578
- **Oneida Community Library**, 201 Elm St., Oneida, Wis.; (920) 869-2210
- **Oshkosh Public Library**, 106 Washington Ave., Oshkosh, Wis.; (920) 236-5205



*An administrative record, which contains detailed information upon which the selection of the final site cleanup plan was based, is also available for review at two DNR offices: 801 E. Walnut St., Green Bay, Wis. and 101 S. Webster St., 2nd Floor, Madison, Wis. An administrative record is also available at the EPA Record Center, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., 7th Floor, Chicago, Ill.*



Prepared by the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Supporting agencies include Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in these articles are solely those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by all members of the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership.

## INSIDE

## FOX RIVER CURRENT

Little Lake Butte des Morts Cleanup Moves Forward  
Trustee Council Participates In Nature Conservancy Celebration  
Markers Keep Lake Boaters Safe  
Out and About...  
Correction  
Spotlight On: Raising Walleye for Door County Waters  
Profile On... Mick Hans  
Web Site Addresses  
Information Repository Locations

1  
2  
3  
3  
3  
4  
6  
7  
7

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